02270

c. 1968/11/01

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

~~SECRET~~
Classification

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin

Info

ACTION: Amembassy SAIGON IMMEDIATE
INFO: Amembassy PARIS IMMEDIATE
STATE

91-500
-JW
5-14-92

NODIS HARVAN DOUBLE PLUS
PARIS TODEL _____ FOR HARRIMAN AND VANCE.
NOTIFY AMBASSADOR BUNKER NOT LATER THAN 0700 AND AMBASSADOR BERGER NOT LATER THAN 0600 OF RECEIPT OF THIS CABLE AND ITS IMPORTANCE

1. While we are not repeat not wholly clear here whether Thieu and others have been having second thoughts after their marathon session with you and the last-minute failure to achieve agreement on the joint announcement, we wish to give you every possible ammunition to ~~prsbeed~~ prevent Thieu from taking ~~an~~ unwise positions in his speech tomorrow and to insure that the GVN goes ahead to participate in Paris on reasonable ground rules that simply insure no distortion of the basic understandings we have with the North Vietnamese.

2. Accordingly, we have expressed our thoughts in the form of a letter from the President to Thieu. This letter may be used entirely as you see fit, as an oral message, or with such editing, addition, and amendment as you think would make it most

Drafted by: EA: WPBundy:bmm 11/1/68
Tel. Ext. 4235
Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: The Secretary
The Under Secretary
S/S-Mr. Read
Clearances: White House - Mr. Rostow

~~SECRET~~
Classification

FORM 8-65 DS-322

COPY LBJ LIBRAI

effective, advising us subsequently what you have done.

3. The text is:

November 1, 1968

Dear President Thieu:

I know these days have been difficult for you. A major turn in the road is always complex in the political life of democratic societies. But I do believe that, as we take stock this morning, we have every reason to go forward together with hope and confidence.

I understand Ambassador Bunker has conveyed to you my assurances of continued strong support as well as specific assurances with respect to the way the negotiations in Paris will be handled.

I am sure that when you saw the text of what I said to our people last night, you knew that I had much in mind the interest of your people and the political problems you face.

I trust that you will make every effort now -- in public and in the work between our two governments -- to narrow and to eliminate whatever gap there may be between us so that we can go forward as brothers in arms in Paris, as we have been so long in Vietnam.

You should know that in these weeks no comment or piece of advice rendered to me was wiser than your ~~XXXXX~~ observation to Ambassador Bunker when he and General Abrams in October went over with you those proposed instructions to Harriman. As ~~XX~~ I remember, you said ~~XXXXX~~ this:

COPY LBJ LIBRARY

SECRET
Classification

"After all, the problem is not to stop the bombing but to stop the war. And we must try this path to see if they are serious." It was in that spirit that XX I spoke last night. It is in that spirit of hope, tempered by caution, that I trust we shall shortly move forward together in Paris.

I know that in these difficult but also hopeful times I can count on your statesmanship and your courage.

(Signed) LBJ END TEXT

END

GP-1

COPY LBJ LIBRARY